



Billing Code 3410-DM-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

Docket No. [FSIS-2016-0042]

National Advisory Committee on Microbiological  
Criteria for Foods.

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice Soliciting Nominations for Membership  
on the National Advisory Committee on Microbiological  
Criteria for Foods.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is  
soliciting nominations for membership on the National  
Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for  
Foods (NACMCF). There are 15 vacancies. Advisory  
Committee members serve a two-year term, renewable for  
two consecutive terms.

USDA is seeking nominees with scientific  
expertise in the fields of microbiology, epidemiology,  
food technology (food, clinical, and predictive),  
toxicology, risk assessment, infectious disease,  
biostatistics, and other related sciences. USDA is  
seeking nominations for NACMCF from persons in  
academia, industry, State governments, and the Federal  
Government, as well as all other interested persons

with the required expertise. Please note that federally registered lobbyists cannot be considered for USDA advisory committee membership.

USDA is also seeking nominations for one individual affiliated with a consumer group to serve on the NACMCF. This member will serve as a representative member to provide a consumer viewpoint to the committee. This member will not be required to have a scientific background and will not be subject to a conflict of interest review.

Members can serve on only one USDA advisory committee at a time. All nominees will undergo a USDA background check.

With the exception of the consumer representative member, any member who is not a Federal government employee will be appointed to serve as a non-compensated special government employee (SGE). SGEs will be subject to appropriate conflict of interest statutes and standards of ethical conduct.

Nominations for membership on the NACMCF must be addressed to the Secretary of USDA and accompanied by a cover letter addressing the nomination, a resume or curriculum vitae, and a completed USDA Advisory Committee Membership Background Information form AD-

755 available online at:

<https://www.ocio.usda.gov/document/ad-755>. A person may self-nominate, or a nomination can be made on behalf of someone else. The resume or curriculum vitae must be limited to five one-sided pages and should include educational background, expertise, and a list of select publications, if available, that confirm the nominee's expertise for this work. For submissions received that are more than five one-sided pages in length, only the first five pages will be reviewed.

DATES: All materials must be received by [INSERT 30 DAYS FROM DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

ADDRESSES: Nomination packages should be sent via e-mail to [karen.thomas-sharp@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:karen.thomas-sharp@fsis.usda.gov) and mailed to: Tom Vilsack, Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250, Attn: FSIS\Office of Public Health Science\National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods (Karen Thomas-Sharp).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Karen Thomas-Sharp, Advisory Committee Specialist, by telephone at 202-690-6620 or by e-mail

[karen.thomas-sharp@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:karen.thomas-sharp@fsis.usda.gov).

The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) invites interested persons to submit comments on this notice. Comments may be submitted by either of the following methods: Federal eRulemaking Portal: This Web site (<http://www.regulations.gov/>) provides the ability to type short comments directly into the comment field on this Web page or attach a file for lengthier comments. Follow the online instructions at that site for submitting comments. Mail, including CD-ROMS and hand or courier delivered items: Send to Docket Clerk, USDA, FSIS Docket Room, Patriots Plaza 3, 355 E Street SW, Room 8-163A, Washington, DC 20250-3700 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Instructions: All items submitted by mail or e-mail must include the Agency name and docket number FSIS-2016-0042. Comments received in response to this docket will be made available for public inspection and posted without change, including any personal information, to <http://www.regulations.gov/>.

Docket: For access to background documents or comments received, go to the FSIS Docket Room at

Patriots Plaza 3, 355 E. Street SW, Room 8-164,  
Washington, DC 20250-3700 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30  
p.m., Monday through Friday. All comments submitted in  
response to this notice, as well as background  
information used by FSIS in developing this document,  
will be available for public inspection in the FSIS  
Docket Room at the address listed above between 8:30  
a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

The NACMCF was established in March 1988, in  
response to a recommendation in a 1985 report of the  
National Academy of Sciences Committee on Food  
Protection, Subcommittee on Microbiological Criteria,  
"An Evaluation of the Role of Microbiological Criteria  
for Foods." The current charter for the NACMCF and  
other information about the Committee are available to  
the public for viewing on the FSIS Web site at:  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/nacmcf>.

The Committee provides scientific advice and  
recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture and  
the Secretary of Health and Human Services concerning  
the development of microbiological criteria by which  
the safety and wholesomeness of food can be assessed.

For example, one of the most recent efforts of the Committee is to provide the best scientific information available on Shiga Toxin producing *E. coli*, including providing recommendations on optimal detection and identification methodologies.

Appointments to the Committee will be made by the Secretary of Agriculture after consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services to ensure that recommendations made by the Committee take into account the needs of the diverse groups served by the Department.

The full Committee expects to meet at least once a year by teleconference or in-person, and the meetings will be announced in the Federal Register. The subcommittees will meet as deemed necessary by the chairperson through working group meetings in an open public forum. Subcommittees also may meet through teleconference or by computer-based conferencing (Webinars). Subcommittees may invite technical experts to present information for consideration by the subcommittee. The subcommittee meetings will not be announced in the Federal Register. FSIS will announce the agenda and subcommittee working group meetings

through the Constituent Update, available online at:  
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/cu>.

NACMCF holds subcommittee meetings in order to accomplish the work of NACMCF; all subcommittee work is reviewed and approved during a public meeting of the full Committee, as announced in the Federal Register. All data and records available to the full Committee are expected to be available to the public when the full Committee reviews and approves the work of the subcommittee. Advisory Committee members are expected to attend all in-person meetings during the two-year term to ensure the smooth functioning of the advisory committee. However, on rare occasions, attendance through teleconferencing may be permitted.

Members must be prepared to work outside of scheduled Committee and subcommittee meetings and may be required to assist in document preparation. Committee members serve on a voluntary basis; however, travel expenses and per diem reimbursement are available.

#### Regarding Nominees Who Are Selected

All SGE and Federal government employee nominees who are selected must complete the Office of Government Ethics (OGE) 450 Confidential Financial

Disclosure Report before rendering any advice or before their first meeting. With the exception of the consumer representative committee member, all committee members will be reviewed pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 208 for conflicts of interest relating to specific NACMCF work charges, and financial disclosure updates will be required annually. Members subject to financial disclosure must report any changes in financial holdings requiring additional disclosure. OGE 450 forms are available on-line at: <https://www2.oge.gov/web/oge.nsf/Confidential%20Financial%20Disclosure>.

#### Additional Public Notification

Public awareness of all segments of rulemaking and policy development is important. Consequently, FSIS will announce this Federal Register publication on-line through the FSIS Web page located at: <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/federal-register>.

FSIS also will make copies of this publication available through the FSIS Constituent Update, which is used to provide information regarding FSIS policies, procedures, regulations, Federal Register notices, FSIS public meetings, and other types of information that could affect or would be of interest



to our constituents and stakeholders. The Update is available on the FSIS Web page. Through the Web page, FSIS is able to provide information to a much broader, more diverse audience. In addition, FSIS offers an e-mail subscription service which provides automatic and customized access to selected food safety news and information. This service is available at:

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/subscribe> . Options range from recalls to export information, regulations, directives, and notices. Customers can add or delete subscriptions themselves, and have the option to password protect their accounts.

#### USDA Non-Discrimination Statement

No agency, officer, or employee of the USDA shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, or political beliefs, exclude from participation in, deny the benefits of, or subject to discrimination any person in the United States under any program or activity conducted by the USDA.

### How to File a Complaint of Discrimination

To file a complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, which may be accessed online at

[http://www.ocio.usda.gov/sites/default/files/docs/2012/Complain\\_combined\\_6\\_8\\_12.pdf](http://www.ocio.usda.gov/sites/default/files/docs/2012/Complain_combined_6_8_12.pdf), or write a letter

signed by you or your authorized representative.

Send your completed complaint form or letter to USDA by mail, fax, or email:

Mail:

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Director, Office of Adjudication  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250-9410

Fax: (202) 690-7442

E-mail: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.), should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

Done at Washington, DC: December 1, 2016.

Alfred V. Almanza,

Acting Administrator.

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